



State of Wisconsin \ GROUNDWATER COORDINATING COUNCIL

Jim Doyle, Governor

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TO: Dave Lindorff – DNR
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Bruce Haukom - WCCA
Chuck Kell – AWRPC
Mayor John David – WAC
Chuck Dunning, USGS
Bob Pearson - DOT

Jim VandenBrook – DATCP
Mike Kakuska – Dane County
Roman Kaminski - Commerce
Ray Schmidt - WCCA
Ed Morse – WRWA
Mayor Carol Lombardi – WAC
Nancy Quirk – WWA
Steve Born - UW-Madison

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FROM: Tim Asplund - DNR

Dan Scudder
DOT

The purpose of this memo is to summarize the meeting of the Groundwater Coordinating Council's **Local Government & Planning Subcommittee (LGPS)** held on **Tuesday, April 26th, 2005**. Present: Chuck Warzecha, Tim Asplund, Dana Jensen (Vandewalle & Associates), Lynn Markham, Sally Kefer (DNR), Dana Lucero (DNR), Mike Kakuska, Roman Kaminski, and Jim VandenBrook.

Kathy Pielsticker
DATCP

(Vacant).

1. **Overview** - Tim Asplund (DNR) provided an overview of the reorganization of the GCC subcommittees as approved by the GCC at its February meeting. This was the first meeting of the combined Local Government and Planning Subcommittee. The Planning component of the former Planning and Mapping Subcommittee were combined with the Local Government Subcommittee.
2. **Changing Landscapes: Tools for Comprehensive Planning** - Dana Lucero (DNR Land Use Team) provided an update of the Changing Landscapes initiative to provide tools to assist local communities with comprehensive planning. The DNR's Land Use Team held 2 workshops (2003 and 2004) to get input on computer applications to assist local planners in developing comprehensive plans. Eleven tools were identified as being most useful. The tools can be used for a variety of purposes, including accessing data, analyzing data and predictive modeling. The Land Use Team is now involved in providing training to targeted audiences to help train local officials in how to use these tools. The Land Use Team has targeted UW Extension staff, the DNR staff, professional planners and local government officials and staff for these training opportunities. They have partnered with a number of organizations to help get the word out about the tools and training that's available.
3. **Groundwater protection and planning in Wisconsin comprehensive plans** - Lynn Markham from the UW Stevens Point Center for Land Use Education discussed the results of the project she has been working on over the past year to look at how groundwater has been incorporated into comprehensive plans being developed by Wisconsin communities. She and others from the Center surveyed 79 plans in limited detail to see generally where and how groundwater was addressed in comprehensive plans. The 29 plans that contained the most groundwater information were then studied in more detail. Lynn and the other staff are now in the process of writing 5 case studies of successful groundwater efforts to serve as a catalyst for other communities to think about in developing their own plans for groundwater. Lynn indicated that she will receive funding through the joint solicitation process for continuing the project to identify how to make groundwater information available to communities who are doing

comprehensive planning.

Dana Lucero indicated that she would be willing to work with Lynn on how to incorporate groundwater information into the DNR database maintained by the Land Use Team. Subcommittee members discussed the availability of groundwater information, especially the source water assessments that have now been delivered to all municipal water supply systems. There is groundwater information that would be quite valuable to local communities in their planning efforts. What is the best way to make them aware of this information and to access this information?

Sally Kefer raised the issue of sharing groundwater across jurisdictional boundaries. It might make sense from a resource protection standpoint to have a combined water service for multiple jurisdictions, but can be stymied by local political and economic questions. Is this a question for the Subcommittee or GCC to address?

4. **Groundwater quantity legislation** - Tim Asplund provided an update on implementation of the groundwater quantity legislation signed by Governor Doyle on Earth Day 2004. The Groundwater Advisory Committee (GAC) has been established and held its first meeting April 1st. Two work groups of technical staff have also been created to assist the GAC. Information on the GAC is available at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/dwg/gac/index.htm>.

Subcommittee members raised the issue of water conservation as part of the groundwater quantity issue. Lynn Markham intends to send out a water conservation survey later this year. There was some discussion of the current rate structure that promotes water use rather than conservation. Might there be a way to explore alternative rate structures that promote conservation? This might be a good topic to develop as a Joint Solicitation research priority for next year.

Tim also reported that as of May 1st, a fee and notification to the DNR will be required for any new well in Wisconsin. For high cap wells, the fee will be \$500. For other wells, the fee will be \$50.

5. **Updated Comprehensive Planning and Groundwater Fact Sheets** - David Lindorff indicated that the 3 Comprehensive Planning and Groundwater Fact Sheets were reviewed in February for correct web links. There were a number of changes made to Fact Sheet 2, so it was reprinted with a February 2005 revision date. There were only minor changes to the other 2 fact sheets, so they were not reprinted. All 3 fact sheets are available at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/dwg/gw/whp/fact.htm>.
6. **Local government and planning updates** - Subcommittee members were given an opportunity to talk about things they're working on or issues they're aware of that might be of interest to others.
 - Mike Kakuska recommended that the groundwater modeling done for source water assessments be extended to other parts of the state. The groundwater modeling has been of immense value in Dane County and would be of great value for other areas to assist with comprehensive planning.
 - Lynn Markham indicated that she may be contacting some of the Subcommittee members to be part of an advisory committee for the next project she will be working on related to getting groundwater information to local communities. Sally Kefer said that her sense is that communities don't know much about groundwater or how to get access to groundwater information.
 - Roman Kaminski informed everyone about possible legislation that would require an inventory of onsite wastewater systems in the state. There may be some help from EPA in developing a national database for collecting the inventory information.
 - Jim VandenBrook indicated that DATCP and DNR have been trying to address a recent issue of manure contamination of private wells. A number of wells have apparently been contaminated due to manure runoff.

7. **Future directions for the LGPS** - The Subcommittee talked about several issues that could be addressed, including how to make the information in source water assessments more widely available, how to pull together information on water use in Wisconsin, and how to identify areas which are exporting groundwater out of the watershed from which it's withdrawn. Dave Lindorff will work on scheduling another Subcommittee meeting in August or September that would focus more on groundwater quantity issues.

The meeting adjourned at 12:25.

cc: GCC members
Eric Fowle - East Central RPC
Dana Jensen - Vandewalle & Associates
Brian Barrett - SEWRPC
George Kraft - UWSP
Dana Lucero - DNR
Sally Kefer - DNR